

Copy to H. WEISBERG

James Fairley
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Dec 12, 1999

Dear Editor:

Surely someone who is a Nation contributing editor should know the difference between an ideological tract and a reasoned presentation of a position he, of course, has every right to hold. I refer to the extreme bias of Max Hollond's review of various books and the now released documents of The Assassination Records Review Board concerning JFK's murder. (The Nation, Dec. 7, 1998).

The many author's who consider Kennedy's assassination a conspiracy, of which he mentions none, are labeled "conspiracy buffs" and he ridicules those who call themselves a "research community" in an attempt to find out what happened.

Without making a case for or against Oswald as the assassin several thing about the Warren Commission should always be kept in mind: The Commission had made up its mind PRIOR to its first meeting that Oswald was it; The proceedings were held in secret. There was no excuse for this. If Oswald had not been murdered, had stood trial, ALL of the proceedings would have been public. What are we to think of the integrity of a Government which doesn't release this material for 36 years? Do we know that it hasn't been altered, that the redoubtable CIA and FBI may not have given to it their all, that there are no critical omissions or withholdings? And there was no one at the hearings to defend Oswald, and I'm well aware that the American Bar Association had a rep there, presumably for the purpose of looking out for Oswald's interests, but who was rarely present, and did next to nothing.

Holland treats Oswald's presumed murder of Officer Trippit as an undisputed fact. Says Dale K. Myers book "Lee Harvey Oswald and the Murder of Officer J.D. Tippit" is "surely a definitive one." Why "surely?" There are many excellent studies to the contrary, Harold Weisberg's angry but carefully written books among them.

One could go on and on but I'm convinced that with the Nation—to which I subscribe—there's not much hope for fair treatment in this particular matter. But I certainly feel you should open your pages to someone, and there are many, who can rebut Hollond's deplorable review.

James Fairley

Hal:
I sent this E-mail. Don't
forget to send me your letter.